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Michael L. Culotta  
Name  
[Signature]  
Signature  
December 3, 2003  
Date of Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/780,807  
Applicant(s) : Stefan THIEM et al.  
Filed : February 9, 2001  
Title : Automatic Stainer Having a Heating Station  
Docket No. : 37105.0023

**RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NONCOMPLIANT AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Amendment and Response is in reply to the Notice of Noncompliant Amendment mailed November 4, 2003.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.